

Appl. No. 09/976,522

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication on page 5 of the Office Action that claims 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 are allowed. Only these claims have been maintained in the application, as indicated in the preceding claims listing, and it is therefore believed that the present application is allowable.

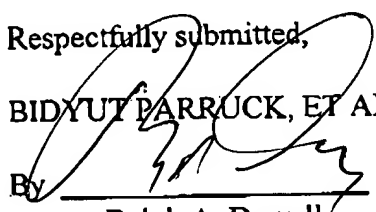
All other claims 4, 5 and 9 to 53 have been cancelled without prejudice, solely to advance the examination of the present application. The cancellation of these claims should not be interpreted as any form of admission by the Applicant that the cancelled claims are unpatentable.

Since only allowed claims remain in the application, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early action to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BIDYUT PARRUCK, ET AL

By

  
Ralph A. Dowell  
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Date:

DMW:wfs